

FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Team: The Miners

Problem:

As students progress in their education, they become disenchanted and disconnected from the university. This is due to seemingly diminishing academic culture of support, loss of connections over time, etc.

Solutions:

Aggie Genome Project

Wouldn't it be great if there was a central place that students and advisors could go to communicate, track their progress, and hear about campus activities? One solution would be to create an online university profile, much like a social networking profile, but university and resource based. It would have sections in the profile for each resource the university offers such as Career Services and the Advising Center. It would show the advisors what resources the student has been using and allows students to ask questions to advisors in a simple, accessible forum, similar to a Pandora/Facebook profile hybrid targeted towards the university experience. There will also be a place on the profile to communicate with professors and their advisors, much like our current "Blackboard". It would also serve as an informal compilation of the student's university experience as it would include updates not only from the resources but also extra-curricular activities. This "Aggie Genome Project" would bridge the gaps of communication between university resources, the students, the extracurricular groups, and professors. Any information throughout the university would be accessible to the student and to any part of the university that needed it.

More User Friendly Student Webpage

Right now when students go to search on the USU web page, it is extremely difficult to find what they want because there is an overwhelming amount information to sort through to get the answers the students need. In our research, we found that students fit under common "profiles" and have all similar situations and questions within each category. We believe it would be easier for students to find what they are looking for if there was a student web page separate from the USU general website, based on questions that are frequently asked by students or by common situations students find themselves in. In each category, there would be the resources listed that the students could go to for answers to their specific questions. There would also be a place for students to leave comments about what resources best helped them. Using information sourced from both students and the university would make this a more student centered resource.

Information Kiosk

For those students that like the more personal connection, an information kiosk would be the way to go. Currently there is an information kiosk, but it is not used because it is not widely known of, and it is mostly a compilation of dates of events. With this new, revamped kiosk, there would be trained, experienced students managing the kiosk with in-depth knowledge of the university, like we have been able to be exposed to through this class. If students needed help finding a certain resource, they could walk up and ask the student representative of the university.

Also, with the students turning more and more to the Internet, the students manning the kiosk would also be available to chat online with students that are not able to physically go to them, similar to the “ask the librarian” option USU currently has for the library website. They could then be directed to the resource they need to answer their questions. This creates a centralized information resource that we believe would simplify the process and would provide a place where all the information given to the students at the beginning of their journey can be refreshed and re-presented to them.